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THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY

— IS THE —


People's Popular Policy

The Conservative position
on leading Provincial is-
sues as declared by the
popular Conservative leader

F. W. G. HAULTAIN, K.C.

AT BIGGAR, APRIL 15TH, 1912

A policy that will provide railways, reduce
railway rates, promote agriculture, and give
due expression to the popular will.



INTRODUCTION



In his treatment of provincial issues Mr. Haultain has recognized that a Provincial Government and members of the Legislature should concentrate their attention upon matters which particularly concern the people of the Province and should apply to the solution of local problems the provincial machinery which has been specifically provided by the constitution.

A provincial legislature can never solve federal problems, or remove difficulties which are national in their nature. It must be recognized that in the government of the Dominion there are two separate and distinct parts, the federal and the provincial. The Dominion Parliament cannot do the work of the provincial legislatures, nor can the provincial legislatures do the work of the Dominion Parliament. Mr. Haultain has recognized this fact.

His treatment of questions relating to railways and their control, railway rates, interior storage elevators, loans to farmers, law reform, good roads, cheap power and rural telephones shows that he is fully in line with the most progressive of political leaders. These are subjects which are engaging the attention of popular leaders both in this country and in the United States. The Progressives south of the boundary line are contending strenuously for increased control of the corporations, for reforms in law and administration, such as will give greater effect to the will of the people. Not only so, but they are bending their energies to bringing about a condition of things that will give to the producer a larger share of the wealth which he produces. These two ideas—increased power to the people and to them also a larger share of the wealth they produce—are dominant in the recent speeches of Mr. Haultain, of which his speech at Biggar is a good example. They are also a complete answer to the charge that he and the Conservative party in Saskatchewan are the representatives of interests other than the interests of the people, for corporation representatives do not propose measures designed to curb and control corpora-

tions. All must admit that the Haultain policy is the people's popular policy and that it will promote government of the people, for the people and by the people.

The Conservative policy, on a number of questions which are engaging the attention of the people of Saskatchewan, was set forth by Mr. Haultain in a speech delivered at Biggar on April 15th. The subjects dealt with and the general position in respect thereto as outlined by Mr. Haultain is appended; other subjects will be dealt with as opportunity presents itself.

The dominant notes of the speech are optimism and progress, and its general tenor is such as to place Mr. Haultain among the most progressive political leaders in Canadian politics.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Provincial ownership and control of the public domain within the Province, including lands, minerals, timber and water.

Compensation by the Dominion for all lands and other natural resources within the Province alienated by the Dominion Government for federal purposes, including purchased homesteads and pre-emptions;

Provincial control of the school lands and the school lands fund;

The providing by the Province (on its acquisition of the public domain) of a system of homesteads and pre-emptions involving a modification of the present cultivation and residential duties;

The setting apart from the public domain of an ample land endowment for the provincial university;

A right-of-way to Hudson's Bay ports.

RAILWAYS

The providing by the Province of railway facilities wherever they are required, including lines of railway connecting all parts of the Province with the Hudson's Bay railway; by

the construction of provincial railways, or the acquisition of existing lines of railway; by the guarantee of bonds or otherwise; making provision in every case, where aid by guarantee or otherwise is given for:

(a) The acquisition of the railway by the Province, if at any time it is considered necessary in the public interest;

(b) The control by the Provincial authorities of the location, standard of construction, equipment, freight, express, passenger and telegraph rates of any such railway.

CHEAP POWER AND WATER

To make a full and immediate enquiry into the question of developing cheap power from the North and South Saskatchewan rivers, and also from the coal areas of the Province, with a view to the adoption of a Provincial power policy; and that in connection with this work a thorough enquiry be conducted into the feasibility of providing a supply of water for irrigation and domestic purposes in such parts of the Province as the same may be required.

GOOD ROADS POLICY

The introduction of a good roads policy involving the expenditure of the five million dollars already authorized by the Legislature, the money to be expended and the work to be done—(1) under the general control of an independent commission through and by the municipalities and local improvement districts; (2) where there are no such organizations the same to be done by the commission; this policy to be continued by a further annual expenditure of one million dollars for the same purposes until otherwise decided by the Legislature.

PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE

The expenditure through the municipalities and local improvement districts of all money voted by the Legislature for roads, smaller bridges and culverts, and which is chargeable to current expenditure.

RAILWAY RATES

The appointment of a freight tariff expert by the Provincial Department of Railways for the purpose of investigating and reviewing all freight tariffs having more particularly to do with the fixing of rates on coal and lumber, with a view to protecting the interests of consumers against excessive charges and discrimination, and thus tending to secure a reduction in the cost of living in Saskatchewan.

RURAL TELEPHONES

The inclusion of rural telephones in the provincial telephone system and the placing of the whole system under the control of an independent commission.

INTERIOR STORAGE ELEVATORS

To provide for the building of interior elevators for the storage of grain, the same to be equipped with adequate appliances for cleaning and drying purposes.

LAW REFORM

Law reform, including a cheaper, more simplified and effective system for the administration of civil law in the Province;

A statutory form of agreements for the sale of agricultural implements and machinery;

Government control and supervision of the public sale of stock and shares and company promotion.

LOANS TO FARMERS

Immediate action by the Government for providing a scheme under which farmers will be placed in a position to secure loans at as low a rate of interest as the state of the money market and the cost of administration will permit.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

The adoption of the principle of the Initiative and Referendum.

C. P. R. TAX EXEMPTION

The removal of the unjust and onerous Canadian Pacific Railway's exemption from taxation.

SUPPLEMENTARY REVENUE

The repeal of the sections of the Supplementary Revenue Act which impose a tax on the following lands:

- (a) Land within any rural school district.
- (b) Homesteads held under the Dominion Lands Act.
- (c) Land of bona fide residents to the extent of 160 acres.
- (d) Land held under lease from the Dominion Government.

